OAS Nations Seen Cool To Cuba Crackdown

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Associated Press

Are the Latin American nations other than Cuba ready to crack down hard on the Communist regime of Fidel Castro? As of now, the answer seems to be no.

The 20 nations of the Organization of American States (OAS) are studying a report accusing Communist Cuba of flagrant and repeated acts of aggression against Venezuela.

Latin American diplomatic sources said yesterday that although the report leaves no doubt whatever of Cuba's guilt in this and other subversive attacks on hemisphere nations there is a question how far some Latin American nations will go on any crackdown against Cuba.

The United States has not defined specifically what action it would like the OAS to take but Secretary of State Dean Rusk at his news conference Feb. 27 gave a general idea.

No Doubt, Says Rusk

Rusk said the report "establishes beyond any doubt whatever" that Fidel Castro's dictatorship was involved in attempting the overthrow of the bearded Cuban's number one enemy in Latin America: Romulo Betancourt, one of the few elected presidents in Venezuela's history.

Rusk said the United States expects some decision in the next few weeks "as to just what the OAS response should be." Rusk added he believes "that it clearly ought to mean additional pressures on Castro."

The Betancourt government would like to see strong sanctions against Cuba on Venezuela's accusation of repeated acts of aggression by Cuba last year, including landing of a three-ton cache of arms on a Venezuelan beach.

In addition, Betancourt has urged that foreign ministers of the American republics not only act on this specific matter but also on the general matter of the overthrow of elected governments by military men.

Two such cases occurred last year, one in Honduras and the other in the Dominican Republic where the government of Betancourt's longtime personal friend Juan Bosch also was toppled.

Could Lessen Chances

The introduction of the general denunciation of military takeovers, some Latin Americans believe, could lessen chances for hemisphere effective action against Cuba in the aggression case.

These specialists say that if a foreign ministers conference should be called—there are many doubts that even this action will be taken—there would be a natural point of controversy if Venezuela presses the issue on military takeovers.

Some nations would be expected to object because they are now under governments established by such takeovers or because of their own policies of nonintervention in the affairs of other countries.

Five countries still maintain diplomatic relations with the Havana dictatorship. The severance of diplomatic relations is one of the measures contemplated in the Rio de Janeiro treaty, invoked by Venezuela for acts of agression. The five countries are Mexico, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay.

Brazil Adamant

Brazil has been reported adamant in opposing sanctions against Castro and Mexico's President said recently that his country feels that since Cuba's government is not now permitted in the OAS the Cuban case should be taken to the United Nations.

The OAS has not announced when it will meet to consider the report on aggression against Venezuela but diplomatic circles here guess it will be at least three or four weeks from the date of the OAS report Feb. 24.

Finally, if a meeting is called and meaningful penalties against Cuba are considered, it will require a two-thirds majority to put them into effect. So a minority can, and quite possibly will, block action.

Tin Mining Proposed

DJAKARTA, March 1 (AP) The Soviet Union wants to set up joint operations for tin mining in Indonesia, Antara news agency said today. It quoted A. Podtijaynov, Soviet embassy economic adviser, as saying his government also stood ready to help Indonesia process industrial raw materials once handled by Malaysian firms.